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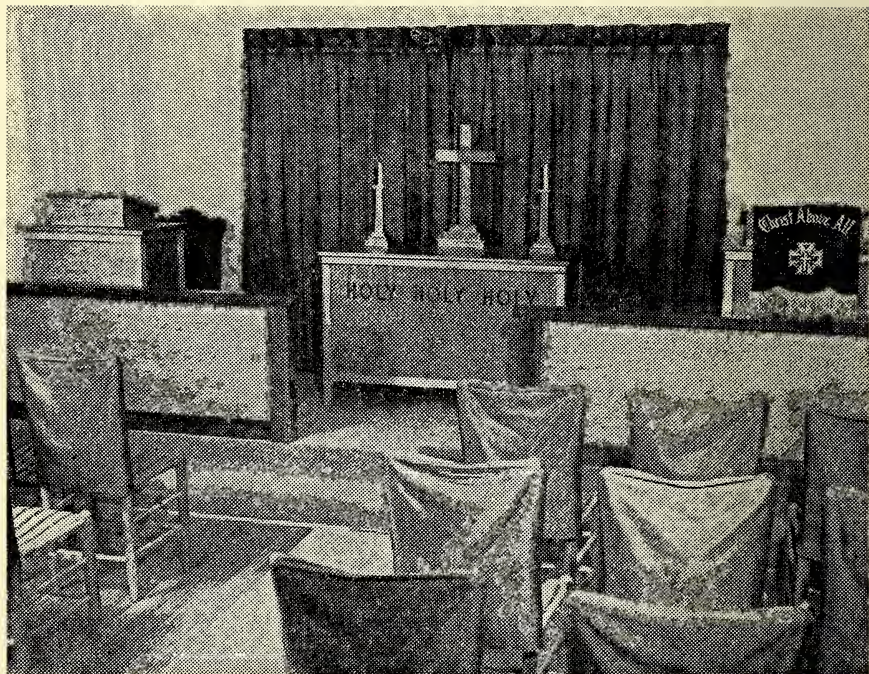


HISTORY
-of the-
MONTMORENCI
METHODIST CHURCH
Candler, North Carolina

Ref.
N.C.
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DEDICATED TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE
SERVED MONTMORENCI METHODIST CHURCH

52047B✓



BUILT BY YOUNG HANDS—The young people of Montmorenci Methodist Church have converted a Sunday School room into a chapel to be used for their meetings. The Rev. R. P. Waugh, pastor, who directed the work, burned the words "Holy Holy Holy" on the altar. Most of the materials were donated and funds for other items were raised by the young people through spaghetti suppers. Men of the church helped with the carpentry, and women of the church made the drapes. Mrs. A. P. Courtney presented the young people with a Bible for use in the chapel.

Preface

This is the history of Montmorenci Methodist Church. It is a chronology of events during its growth in the last one hundred years—1857 to 1957.

The historical committee has endeavored to compile facts and relate them in written story form, so that the reader may realize the gratitude one should have for this Church in the Candler Community.

We are deeply grateful to all those who have given any information or helpful suggestions. We particularly hope it will prove a challenge to you in the future growth of the Church.

Historical Committee:

Mrs. T. C. Roberson, Chm.

Miss Annie Mae Thrash

Mrs. John Gilmore

Mrs. T. C. Roberson

December 1969

History of Montmorenci Methodist Church

Tradition tells us that Methodism began its march in Western North Carolina in the year 1824, when David B. Cumming was on the French Broad Circuit. In 1852 and 1853 the Asheville Circuit embraced a large part of Buncombe and a small part of Haywood County (Buncombe included the major portion of what is now Madison County). This circuit later multiplied into Leicester, Sulphur Springs, Hot Springs, Marshall, and Weaverville Circuits. Bishop Francis Asbury and others blazed the way as circuit riders on horseback across trails in the mountains. Their Christian Courage never faltered.

It was during this march of progress that Montmorenci Methodist Church was organized on the Sulphur Springs Circuit. The year, according to records, was 1857. On March 9, 1857 the first deed for Montmorencie Methodist Episcopal Church South was drawn. The trustees of Montmorencie, Samuel Gudger, Burton Cathey and J. Curtis, paid the Grantor, Mr. Walton Stines, the sum of five dollars for property on big Hominy Creek. The tract contained approximately one and one-half acres. The first Montmorencie Church was built on that land, where the home of the late Dr. A. P. Willis now stands.

There has been much interest shown as to the origin of the name MONTMORENCI. Mrs. Jennie E. Clarke is a native of the Candler community, and lives at present in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She is ninety-two years old. According to her, Mr. George Candler, a brilliant lawyer of his day, had a painting in his home of the Mont Morenci Falls in France. At that time, the church stood on a high knoll overlooking Hominy Creek, which was then a clear rippling stream. The similarity of this scene with that in the painting suggested to him the name of Mont Morencie for the church. This information was given to Mrs. Clarke by her mother, Mrs. Caroline Gudger, and by Mrs. T. J. Harkins, a daughter of Mr. George Candler. Mrs. Clarke remembers asking her mother why some people called the church MOUNT MORENCI. Her mother explained that MOUNT MORENCIE was the French name, while Mount Morenci was the American name.

Mrs. Clarke described the first church as a gray, wooden-framed building. It consisted of one large room and a large porch with four white pillars that rested against the church. It was used for a school-house about three months each year in which a "subscription school" was held. The assembly room contained crude, hand-made benches and a pulpit. The pulpit was a tall boxed affair facing the door with steps leading up to it. A silken scarf was spread across the top of the pulpit on which to place the Bible. Down in front was a table with a

pitcher of water on it. An old upright stove stood in the aisle for heating. The women always sat on the right hand side of the church and the men on the left.

The organizers, builders and charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Russell Jones, Mr. Newton Penland, Captain Thrash, Uncle Billy and Aunt Aminta Penland, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Gudger, Mr. and Mrs. George Candler, Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Luther, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Neal, and Mr. and Mrs. Naff Lindsey. Mr. J. N. Hyatt was superintendent of the first Sunday School, and also song leader. Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Wolfe were the Sunday School teachers. Church services were held one Sunday each month. The services were announced through other churches on the charge and were candlelight services.

At first there was not a musical instrument because some members thought it a sin to use one. A tuning fork was used by the song leader to pitch the chord. It was struck lightly against an object—then held to his ear to hear the sounding chord. He sounded the chord to the congregation. Then it was sounded by all in unison before they sang a hymn. Sometimes the pastor “lined out” the hymns; then the people would join with him in singing. A few hymn books were used. One of the first was the “Christian Harmony.” Singing schools were conducted once or twice each year in the church. Favorite hymns used often in the services were: “Jesus Lover of My Soul,” “How Firm a Foundation” and “Am I a Soldier of the Cross?”

Money was very scarce in those days. The pastor’s salary was paid in part by produce. Mr. J. P. Wolfe and Mr. John H. Courtney used to drive around to members’ homes in two-horse wagons and collect produce to pay the preacher. It was not unusual to find in a pastor’s report to the annual conference a statement like this: “Received on salary one ham, a bushel of corn, one pair of woolen socks and \$10.00 in cash.”

Mrs. Bird was the first person to be buried in the cemetery of the first church.

The congregation found it necessary either to enlarge the Church or to build a new one. The Church was sold at auction and bought by Dr. W. W. Clarke, a physician in the community. He planned to convert it into a residence, but due to pressure from the Episcopalians, who were striving to establish a church in that area, he sold the property to them.

Church and Sunday School services were held by the Methodists in a one-room schoolhouse on the Confederate Reunion Grounds on the hill above Candler when the present Church was being built.

On April 7, 1886, Mr. B. L. Morgan and wife, Mary, made a deed for the present site to the trustees of Montmorencie Episcopal Church South—J. W. Rice, A. W. McFee, Thomas Neal, W. W. Crowell, M. Williams, John Hall, and J. P. Wolfe. This statement is in the deed, "In trust that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the Ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church South; subject to the discipline, usage and ministerial appointments of said Church as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated."

The tract of land contained three and one-half acres and began on a rock at the southern end of the bridge below W. G. Candler's Mill which no longer stands. Sixty-nine dollars and eighty-two cents was the sum paid for it.

The building committee for the present Church was J. L. Young, J. W. Rice, A. N. McFee, James S. Hall, John Hall, J. P. Wolfe, Meridy Williams, Naff Lindsey, and John H. Courtney.

The Church was built of hand-made brick made on Mr. J. W. Rice's farm. Mr. A. W. Penland had charge of the brick making. The bricks were molded in wooden boxes—four bricks to a mold. The boxes were filled with mud sprinkled with sand and burnt in a kiln. The brick were hauled from the mill to the Church site in wagons. Mr. J. P. Wolfe laid the brick. Mr. Charles Rice, Sr. carried the first mold of brick—four to a mold, that was laid. Mr. James G. Rice, his brother, who was twelve years old, carried lunch and water to his father, Mr. J. W. Rice, who helped build the Church.

Brick was the largest single item to be paid for. Part of the labor was paid for and part was free labor. One dollar and fifty cents was paid per day for labor. Some of the members gave one hundred dollars each on the project. The men of the Church worked with experienced Carpenters and the Women did their part by preparing and sending hot lunches to the workmen.

The pews in the Church were made in Tom Clayton's Wood Working Shop at Emma and are still being used in the sanctuary. The seating capacity is approximately 150. Mr. John Ogden pieced each casement window because they were all cut too short. Mr. Dick Clayton made and gave the pulpit, which is still used. The original tall steeple of the Church has been replaced by a low one. It has a bell whose clear tones, older residents tell us, could be heard up and down Hominy Valley. It has not been rung for services in recent years. The walls in the sanctuary have the original plaster on them.

The platform and chancel ran across the entire front of the sanctuary originally. A step led up to it with columns at each side. Three or four benches were on the right hand side for the choir.

The first organ was given by subscriptions. Miss Elizabeth Henry and Mr. Dillan Luther were the first to use instrumental music in the Church. The people liked to sing. Hymns often sung were: "Heavenly Sunlight," "Work for the Night Is Coming," and "Beautiful Zion."

"Love Feasts" were held at Quarterly Meetings and religious testimonials were heard. Quarterly Meetings were held on Saturday and Sunday. The business was transacted on Saturday. Large baskets of dinner were carried to the Church and served by the ladies.

The present Church was dedicated in the summer of 1888. It was an all day service with dinner "on the ground." Several Ministers were present. The Reverend George Stewart preached the dedicatory sermon. The prayer given by the Reverend Stewart was thirty minutes long and patterned after "Solomon's Prayer" in the Bible.

Mr. Mack Hall was the first person to be buried in the present cemetery. Mr. Clyde Alexander and Miss Dell Courtney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Courtney, was the first couple to be married in Montmorencie Church. They were married on May 7, 1896, by the Reverend J. A. Clarke, the pastor. Mr. Max Miller taught the Men's Bible Class for twenty-five years. Mr. Earle Thrash has served as Sunday school secretary for 20 years or more. Mr. R. J. Gaston was Sunday School Superintendent for twenty-five years. Mr. J. G. Rice has been a member of the Montmorencie Methodist Church since February 5, 1886 and is still active. The Honorary Stewards are Mr. J. G. Rice, Mr. Max Miller, and Mr. C. D. Mallonee.

Mr. Lane Gaston served as Lay Leader on the Candler Circuit for several years and was Chairman of the Official Board for thirteen years.

Jasper L. Young and wife, Eva G., made a deed on August 13, 1888 to the trustees of Mont Morencie Methodist Episcopal Church South, J. W. Rice, J. P. Wolfe, Thomas Neil, W. W. Crowell, M. Williams, A. W. McFee, and John F. Hall for three-eighths of an acre of land, near Candler Heights, to be held in trust for the burial ground of the Samuel B. Gudger heirs.

Montmorencie Church was on the Sulphur Springs Circuit from 1857 to 1899. It was in the Asheville District, which was in the Holston Conference of Tennessee until 1890, when it was transferred to the Western North Carolina Conference. In 1899 Montmorencie was transferred to the Waynesville District and remained in it until 1913. It was then transferred to the Asheville District. Boundary changes

were made in the Asheville District at the annual conference in Greensboro, October 23-27, 1919. The Sulphur Springs Circuit was abolished and two new charges created from it. They were the Acton and Hominy Circuits. Montmorencie, Snow Hill, Laurel Hill, Pisgah and Pleasant Hill comprised the Hominy Circuit. When the annual conference met at Central Church, Asheville, N. C., November 2-7, 1927 the name was changed to Candler Circuit and the five above Churches were left on the charge. The "e" was dropped from the spelling of Montmorenci in 1927. Boundary changes were made again in annual conference in Wesley Memorial Church in High Point in 1940. Montmorenci, Snow Hill and Pleasant Hill made up the Candler Charge. It remained the Candler Charge until Montmorenci became a station Church in 1949.

Mrs. George Owenby, Mrs. C. B. Roberson's Mother and a member of Acton Church, preserved a copy of a Church paper, "Sulphur Springs Reflector," printed October 1880 in Asheville, N. C. It was edited and published quarterly at 20c per annum by the pastor, the Reverend John T. Stover. This paper records nine churches on the Sulphur Springs Circuit: Sardis, Bent Creek, Balm Grove, Riverview, Trinity, Montmorencie, Pleasant Hill, Pisgah, and Laurel Hill.

The excerpt below is from the "Sulphur Springs Reflector," October 1880, listed as: Annual Exhibit of Church Work in the Sulphur Springs Circuit for the year 1879-80, by Churches.

Montmorencie

"Number of Members 37, Candidates 1, conversions 2. Number of members received during the year 1, dismissal 7. Number of members who have paid nothing during the year for the support of the Ministry, 4. Sunday School interest has been kept up during the winter, and why not? Our S. School literature is used. No prayer meeting; reason—there are no members that have that kind of grace that moves them to pray in public. O, for a baptism of the praying spirit on this dear people!

"Amount promised preachers, \$55.00, paid the same, \$56.90, spent for S. School work \$4.27; paid for Missions, \$5.66; Conference and Bishops' Collections, \$2.15. Value of Church property, \$350."

The same paper records the Fourth Quarterly Conference held at Trinity Church on September 4, 1880. Boards of Stewards and S. S. Superintendents were elected for the next year. "For Montmorencie—J. P. Wolfe, Steward; John F. Hall, Superintendent."

"The Woman's Missionary Society of the Sulphur Springs Circuit,

at its last meeting resolved to so amend its constitution at the next meeting (Which will be at Sand Hill on Wednesday, Nov. 24th, 1880 at 2 o'clock P.M.) that its meeting will be monthly instead of quarterly. All members are hereby given notice to be present. Three members were removed from the roll at last meeting by force of Sec. 14 of the Bylaws, which provide, that members who fail to report in person or in writing for one year shall thereby forfeit their membership. Yet the Society consists of 17 members and has paid to missions since last Annual Conference, \$14.30.

"We give it as our opinion that when the meetings become monthly the interest will increase very much, and that the ladies will soon find it wise to have more than one society. So let it be."

In January, 1903, Mr. W. G. Candler and wife, Leatho Candler, deeded to the trustees of Montmorenci Church, W. F. Rice, J. G. Rice, J. P. Wolfe, Thomas Neal, R. J. Gaston, and J. L. Young about one-fourth acre of land for the use and benefit of the Confederate Soldiers of Company I, 25th North Carolina Regiment. This site is on the East side of the cemetery and a Confederate Monument stands on it bearing the names of the soldiers in Company I, 25th North Carolina Regiment.

The first parsonage that served the Sulphur Springs Circuit was in Lower Hominy, opposite the Carolyn Courts, on highway 19 and 23.

The site for the present parsonage, one and one-half acres, was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Gaston on March 23, 1906. The trustees of the Sulphur Springs Circuit, J. M. Hawkins, J. C. Curtis, A. H. Starnes, A. Z. Wright, and J. W. Rutherford paid the sum of \$500.00 for the land. The deed states: "The receipt is hereby acknowledged. Have granted, bargained, sold, conveyed and confirmed unto the said parties of the second part and their successors in office a certain piece, parcel, or lot of land situated in Upper Hominy Township, County of Buncombe.

"To have and to hold the above described land and premises with all appurtenances here unto belonging or in any wise appertaining unto said parties of the second part, their successors in office and assignees to use and behoof of them and their successors in office and assignees forever."

This parsonage consisted of three rooms. It was used until 1909 when Mr. A. Z. Wright and Mr. Joe Duckworth tore it down and built a new parsonage at the cost of approximately \$2,000. The members of Montmorenci paid Pleasant Hill and Snow Hill \$3,000 for their part ownership of the parsonage in 1950 when Montmorenci became

a station Church. It was renovated in 1950 at a cost of \$600. An oil heating system was installed in 1953, which cost \$1,000.

A well on the site furnished the water. A water system and bathroom were installed in the present parsonage in 1940 for \$400.

The first woman's society of Montmorenci Church, known as the Ladies' Aid, was organized on February 12, 1914, by Mrs. T. A. Groce, whose husband was pastor of the church. The Reverend T. A. Groce is now retired and known as "Father of Methodism" in the Western North Carolina Conference. Mrs. J. G. Rice was elected the first president. There were ten charter members. In 1950 a record book on the "Status of Women in Montmorenci Church," compiled and made by Mrs. T. C. Roberson, Secretary of Status of Women, was dedicated to Mrs. Groce in appreciation of her beautiful life and service. Many of the clippings had been kept by Mrs. A. P. Thrash, Sr.

The original by-laws of the Ladies' Aid read: "The Ladies' Aid is an organization of the Methodist Church.

Its purpose shall be:

First—To serve the church in any way they can, spiritually, financially or otherwise.

Second—To see after the needs of the parsonage in the way of furnishing, repairing or otherwise.

Third—If they desire to extend aid outside the church or community, they can do so on approval of presiding officer.

Fourth—The organization shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers to be elected semi-annually. Five in number shall constitute a quorum.

The president will appoint all committees and arrange or appoint a program committee at each monthly meeting for the succeeding one.

The meetings are to be held monthly at homes of our members. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside.

The dues are to be 10c per month collected at each meeting by the treasurer. The society shall open with devotional exercise and close with prayer. Then may follow the social hour—refreshments to be limited to two courses."

The Ladies' Aid sponsored building an Aid House below the church in 1932 at an approximate cost of \$500 plus donations and free labor. It served as a Fellowship Hall for various meetings. The Primary and Intermediate Sunday School Classes were held for a num-

ber of years in it.

In April 1935, Miss Amy Hackney, President of the Asheville District Missionary Society, and Mrs. C. C. Weaver, President of the Western North Carolina Missionary Conference, organized a Woman's Missionary Society. Mrs. J. G. Rice was elected president.

On November 12, 1936, the Ladies' Aid and Woman's Missionary Society merged. Mrs. T. C. Roberson was the first president after the merger.

The first church sign was placed near the highway by the Missionary Society in 1938.

During 1938 and 1939 the Sunday School Classes carried on a Lord's Acre Project. The Reverend Dumont Clarke, religious director in the religious department of the Farmers' Federation, supervised the work. The money raised was applied on building the steps that lead from the highway to the church grounds. Another Lord's Acre Project was carried out while the Church-School Building was being built. The Reverend Dumont Clarke gave the church ten dollars worth of baby chicks. Thora Dell Luther, Ted Luther, and Bob Smathers raised them and the net proceeds from the sale were placed in the building fund.

On February 13, 1940, Mrs. J. G. Rice, Vice President of the Missionary Society, organized the Business and Professional Woman's Circle of the church to become affiliated with the Woman's Missionary Society. Mrs. Glenn Leatherwood was the first president and there were twenty-five charter members. The name was changed to Wesleyan Service Guild on September 9, 1940. At present there are forty-five members.

With unification of all Methodist churches in 1939, the Woman's Missionary Society became the Woman's Society of Christian Service. The charter meeting was held in the church sanctuary on September 11, 1940, with the Reverend Byron Shankle in charge. There were twenty-six charter members. Mrs. J. G. Rice was elected president. The program book for 1940 was "Investing Our Heritage." The present membership is thirty-four.

The women have always taken an active part in the church work. A heating plant was installed in 1937 by the Missionary Society at a cost of \$345.60. By the splendid cooperation of the men of the church, the ladies were able to pay for it. They have always helped to make our projects a success. Many thanks to them!

As action from a study course on United Nations in 1948, the

Woman's Society of Christian Service sent a petition to the late Honorable Clyde R. Hoey, North Carolina Senator, Washington, D. C., requesting him to take appropriate action with proper authorities to channel the General Assembly of the United Nations to open with prayer. As a result of many requests throughout the United States, it does open with silent prayer. There is also a Meditation Room in the United Nations' Building.

The beautiful memorial windows in the sanctuary of Montmorenci Church, with their Biblical symbols and mellow glow, lend a serene, hallowed atmosphere for worship. They were installed in 1944 while Reverend C. W. Bates was pastor. They were bought by families in memory of loved ones, except the two at the front, which were bought in honor of boys from the church who served in World Wars I and II. They cost \$85 each. An altar set was also placed in the sanctuary in honor of the boys from the church in service during World War II.

By 1945 the enrollment of the Sunday School had increased until there was a pressing need for more space. In August, 1945, at a joint meeting of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild, Mrs. J. G. Rice appointed a Findings Committee. The members were Mrs. T. C. Roberson, Chairman, Mrs. Carl Thrash, Mrs. Homer Morgan, Mrs. C. D. Fowler, Mrs. H. S. Hall, and Mrs. Grace Scroggs. This committee went on record August 29, 1945, recommending that sufficient space be provided for Sunday School, and that the next Quarterly Conference appoint a Permanent Committee to work and plan for the project. The Reverend C. W. Bates was pastor.

The Quarterly Conference appointed on the building committee the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. H. S. Hall; the Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. T. C. Roberson; President of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, Mrs. J. G. Rice; and the President of the Wesleyan Service Guild, Mrs. Grace Scroggs. Others were named later. Mr. H. S. Hall was chairman of the building committee and a finance committee was named with Mr. Gudger Cabe as chairman. These committees proceeded with plans for a new Church-Educational Building.

The plans were drawn by Henry Gaines, architect of Asheville. The new addition consists of eight Sunday School classrooms, pastor's study, Fellowship Hall and a kitchen. They were completed in 1949 while the Reverend A. Wade Thompson was pastor, at a cost of approximately \$20,000. The Duke Endowment Fund allowed \$3,000 and the remainder was secured through pledges and donations.

Since it was erected following World War II, a priority had to be obtained. The application was filed in Greensboro by Mr. T. C. Rob-

erson in a branch office of the American Civilian Production Administration, under the form CPA-4423. The priority was granted.

Prior to 1939, the Epworth League held meetings. During the unification of the Methodist Churches, May 10, 1939, the name was changed to Methodist Youth Fellowship. The local Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized in 1946 by the Reverend and Mrs. A. Wade Thompson. Mrs. Glenn Leatherwood, Sr. was the counselor. Another step of progress during this period was the adoption of the Unified Budget System.

In November, 1946, Mrs. M. G. Thompson presented a reading table to the Ladies' Bible Class.

The Candler charge was altered when the Annual Conference met in Centenary Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, on September 21-26, 1949. Montmorenci became a station church with the Reverend Paul Hamilton as pastor.

In the autumn of 1949 the sanctuary was renovated. The Wesleyan Service Guild had the floors sanded and finished in natural wood finish and the walls papered. A new carpet was placed on the floor by the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild. New pulpit chairs were given by Mrs. R. L. Brooks as a memorial to Mr. Brooks. Mr. Gudger Cabe replaced the old church sign with a new one near the highway. The ladies of the church sponsored a church nursery in the Church-School Building for children under six years of age. A Hammond organ was installed and paid for by contributions, amounting to \$2400, by the church membership.

There has always been a deep interest in music since the establishment of the first church. During 1949 a choir was organized with Mrs. J. C. Rich, Jr., as director, and Mr. Dan Cook and Mrs. Olin Dillard as organists. Mrs. Carl Thrash was Church-School pianist.

The cornerstone for the educational building was laid on December 18, 1949, by District Superintendent, Dr. R. Dwight Ware, and Mr. H. S. Hall, Chairman of the building committee.

The educational building was dedicated January 18, 1950. Bishop Costen J. Harrell preached the dedicatory sermon. Other ministers taking part were District Superintendent, Dr. R. Dwight Ware, the Reverend A. Wade Thompson, the Reverend C. W. Bates, and the Reverend Paul Hamilton. The Church-School Building was presented for dedication by the Board of Education. Miss Helen Courtney, chairman of the board, made the presentation. A tea was served by the Woman's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild during a social hour after the service.

In 1950 city water from Asheville, from a lateral line at Candler School, was run into the church at an approximate cost of \$350. The Aid House was sold for \$400 and applied on installation of water.

The Young Adult Fellowship was organized in 1951, with Jack Cole as president. A communion table was given by Mr. and Mrs. Gudger Cabe.

During 1952 flower stands were given by Mr. and Mrs. Gudger Cabe, and the Baptismal Font by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Thrash. Mr. and Mrs. Landry Thrash and Misses Florence and Charlotte Cathey gave the pulpit scarf. An altar set, cross and candle holders, were given in memory of Mr. Percy Jones by his sisters, Miss Bertha Jones and Mrs. Alex Copeland. The vases were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Gaston by their grandchildren. The Wesleyan Service Guild bought the piano at a cost of \$895.

A new oil heating system replaced the two heating plants and cost \$1,000.

The Reverend R. Paschal Waugh began his pastorate in 1953. He was transferred from Pleasant Garden in the Greensboro District.

In 1955 the Men's Bible Classroom was converted into a Methodist Youth Fellowship Chapel and is now used by both groups. A beige carpet covers the center aisle and floor of the altar area at the front of the room. Blue satin Dossal curtains drape the windows back of the altar and white ones cover the window on the left. The words "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY" are across the front of the altar on which rests an altar set. A lectern is on the left. The pulpit on the right has a blue scarf bearing the MYF motto: "CHRIST ABOVE ALL." A Bible given by Mrs. A. P. Courtney rests on it. There are twenty chairs with blue satin back covers. The cloth was given by the American Enka Corporation, the recessed light at the front of the room by Mr. Troy Hipps, and the fluorescent light by Mr. Gudger Cabe. The pastor and a number of men in the church did the carpentry work while some of the women made the curtains. It was paid for by receipts from a supper given by the local Methodist Youth Fellowship and donations made by members of the church, totaling \$110. A women's prayer group meets in it the last Tuesday of each month.

Odell Dillard was president during the above project. Mayme Roberson is the present president, and is also president of the Asheville Sub-district MYF.

Two youth groups are active in the church. Mr. and Mrs. Geter Robinson are counselors for the Senior MYF, which has a membership of twenty. In October, 1956, they sent \$45.40 to UNICEF of the

United Nations for underprivileged children in the world. They also pay a pledge of \$50.

The Junior MYF is counseled by Mrs. Vergil Setzer, Mrs. Alice Iarrussi, and Mrs. R. P. Waugh. The twenty members are enthusiastic workers. In addition to making a pledge, they sent money to the Hungarian Relief Fund and redecorated the kindergarten classroom.

Student Recognition Day is observed each year. Speakers in these programs have been Louise Young, Dicie Alice Morgan, Joe Baxter Roberson, William Hipps, and Thora Dell Luther.

Some members have been fortunate to be affiliated with district and conference work. The following have served in the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Asheville District: Mrs. Allen Luther, Promotion Secretary and Secretary of Supply; Mrs. T. C. Roberson, Vice President and Chairman Zone Number Three; Mrs. C. L. Byrd, Secretary of Student Work; Mrs. Olin Dillard, Chairman Zone Number Three; and Mrs. Tom Luther as Assistant Chairman. Mrs. Tom Mallonee is chairman of Missionary Education of the Wesleyan Service Guild. Mr. Gudger Cabe is treasurer of the Asheville District Extension Work. He served on the Commission on World Service and is now a member of the Commission on Town and Country in the Western North Carolina Conference.

A church library was established in 1955 by a committee from the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild, with Mrs. Raymond Brown as chairman. There are seventy volumes in it. A cross, made by Mr. Troy Hipps, was placed in the front of the sanctuary. It cost \$45, and was paid for by the membership of the church.

A Hominy Valley Methodist Men's Organization was organized with the Reverend R. Paschal Waugh as the initiator. It has been an inspiration to the men of the Methodist churches in their work and has promoted a closer relationship among the Methodist Churches of the Hominy Valley. A dinner meeting is held on the third Friday evening of each month at different churches. An interesting program is given and vital subjects of the Methodist Church are discussed. A large number of men attend each meeting. Mr. Olfa Crowder was president in 1956.

Out of this organization, the Hominy Valley Training School developed in 1955. It was endorsed by the Conference Board of Education of the Western North Carolina Conference. Those who enroll receive credit. The first school was held at Acton Church in 1955, and Oak Hill Methodist Church in 1956. After simultaneous revivals

are held in the local churches of the valley, Montmorenci joins with them in a United Hominy Valley Evangelistic Meeting. The first one was held in the Sand Hill Elementary School auditorium in 1955, and in the new Enka High School auditorium in 1956. Dr. Kenneth Goodson and Dr. C. E. Rozzelle were the guest ministers.

A long range program was adopted by the church on December 4, 1955. It included a new garage at the parsonage, paving of the church driveway, and the renovation and addition of the church sanctuary. Mr. Tom Mallonee is chairman of the Planning Committee. The garage was built for \$1250, and the driveway paved for \$1100, in 1956.

Mr. William Hall is Chairman of the Official Board.

During the same year the Board of Trustees, McKee Morgan, M. G. Thompson, Glenn Leatherwood, Sr., Robert Jones, T. C. Roberson, Fred Howell, and George Summey, by approval of the church, exchanged parsonage property with Ben Cole, Jr. for adjoining land in an equal swap of approximately one-fourth of an acre.

A Vacation Bible School is held each summer for children from four to twelve years of age. Mrs. Olfa Crowder was the director in 1956 and the enrollment was fifty.

A Junior Choir was organized in July, 1956. Mrs. Olin Dillard is director and Mrs. Olfa Crowder pianist.

The present choir is active under the direction of Mrs. J. C. Rich, Jr., with Mrs. Olin Dillard as organist. It renders an anthem during the Sunday morning service, and presents a vesper recital at Christmas and Easter. On December 16, 1956, it joined with the choir of the Oak Forest Presbyterian Church in presenting a Christmas program of music at Oak Forest. Congregational singing adds to the Sunday morning and evening services.

A special meeting of the Official Board of Montmorenci Church was held January 21, 1957, in the sanctuary to study plans for the construction of a new sanctuary and social room. Mr. T. C. Roberson made the motion: "That a Planning Committee, composed of Mr. Tom Mallonee, Mr. M. G. Thompson, Mr. E. E. Roberts, Mr. Vincent Maclary, and Mr. McKee Morgan, be authorized to contact an architect to secure plans for a new sanctuary and social room and that an opportunity be given to the church membership to give any suggestions they have to the committee before the final draft is made by the architect. After the plan has been received, it will be submitted to the church membership for approval."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Troy Hipps and was unanimously adopted by the members of the official board that were present.

Yes, Montmorenci Church keeps advancing! The church membership has grown from 37 in 1880 to 267 in 1957. The church budget has increased from \$67.08 in 1880, to \$10,750. In 1880 the church spent \$5.66 on missions. In 1956 the sum of \$1,226 was paid to Missions, which included World Service, Mission Special in Alaska, District Church Extension and pledges of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, and the Wesleyan Service Guild. The amount for Conference Claimant Fund was \$2.56 in 1880 and \$690 in 1956. The value of Montmorenci Church property was \$350 in 1880. The valuation is now placed at \$61,000.

"He who helps to build a church does more than aid in the building of a structure of block and mortar, of beams and timbers and nails. He helps to build that which will, across many years, in darkness and in light, in joyous times and in difficult hours, bear its witness to the gracious care of the Father."



DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE ASHEVILLE DISTRICT FROM 1857 THROUGH 1957

William Hicks	1857-58
Francis M. Fanning	1859-62
Grinsfield Taylor	1863-66
Frank Richardson	1867-68
John Boring	1869-71
W. Robeson	1872
A. J. Frazier	1873-76
James S. Kennedy	1877-80
K. C. Atkins	1881-84
C. T. Carroll	1885-88
J. H. Weaver	1889-92
C. W. Byrd	1893-95
D. Atkins	1896-99
R. H. Parker	1900-03
A. W. Plyler	1904-06
L. W. Crawford	1907
D. Atkins	1908-11
C. A. Wood	1912-15
R. G. Tuttle	1916-17
W. H. Willis	1918-21
H. C. Sprinkle	1922-25
John F. Kirk	1926-28
D. M. Litaker	1929-32
W. B. West	1933-36
M. T. Smathers	1937-42
A. C. Gibbs	1943-45
R. D. Ware	1946-51
J. W. Fitzgerald	1952

THIS IS A LIST OF THE PASTORS OF MONTMORENCI
CHURCH AND THE YEARS IN WHICH THEY SERVED:

Alexander F. English, John W. Mann	1857-58
J. R. Long, W. F. Parker, Supply	1858-59
Raffael W. Petty, George M. Proffitt	1859-60
J. W. Bird	1860-61
W. W. Smith	1861-62
Anson W. Cumming	1862-63
F. Richardson	1863-64
J. D. Baldwin	1864-66
W. M. Kerr	1866-68
W. H. Cooper	1868-70
W. H. Bates	1870-71
J. W. Bird	1871-72
James Mahoney, John Reynolds, Supply....	1872-73
J. H. Robinson, J. Reynolds, Supply	1873-74
W. D. Mitchell, J. Reynolds, Supply	1874-76
S. S. Weatherly	1876-77
John T. Stover	1877-80
W. D. Akers	1880-82
A. W. Curtis	1882-84
J. F. Austin	1884-85
W. M. Boring	1885-87
J. T. Stover	1887-89
J. H. Moore	1889-91
J. A. Clarke	1891-96
Wilbur Legette	1896-98
W. G. Mallonee	1898-01
R. M. Taylor	1901-03
J. H. Brendall	1903-05
C. H. Neal	1905-06
C. H. Curtis	1906-08
J. W. Campbell	1908-12
J. P. Bross	1912-13
T. A. Groce	1913-17
James H. Green	1917-18
J. C. Postelle	1918-19
M. W. Dargan	1919-20
H. L. Powell	1920-24
A. L. Latham	1924-28
D. V. Howell	1928-32
R. M. Hauss	1932-35
T. A. Groce	1935-37

Byron Shankle	1937-41
C. W. Bates	1941-45
A. W. Thompson	1945-49
Paul Hamilton	1949-53
R. Paschal Waugh	1953-

SUPERINTENDENTS OF MONTMORENCI SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Mr. J. N. Hyatt	Mrs. C. D. Fowler
Mr. Perry Gaston	Mr. Max Miller
Mr. W. G. Candler	Mr. T. C. Roberson
Mr. John F. Hall	Mr. Gudger Cabe
Mr. Henry Walton	Mr. Olin Dillard
Mr. J. L. Young	Mr. Tom Kirkpatrick
Mr. John Clark	Mr. Jack Cole
Mr. R. J. Gaston	Mr. W. V. Setzer
Mr. C. B. Roberson	Mr. David Rogers
Mr. James Rice	Mr. Troy Hipps

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS OF MONTMORENCI METHODIST CHURCH

LADIES' AID
1914-36

MISSIONARY SOCIETY
1936-40

Presidents

1. Mrs. J. G. Rice
2. Mrs. T. A. Groce
3. Mrs. B. H. Cole
4. Mrs. T. A. Luther
5. Mrs. J. L. Young
6. Mrs. Jesse Gay
7. Mrs. H. S. Hall
8. Mrs. Lane Israel
9. Mrs. Carl Thrash
10. Mrs. J. C. L. Gudger
11. Mrs. Charles Rice
12. Mrs. C. D. Mallonee
13. Mrs. Pinkney Leatherwood
14. Mrs. S. J. Luther

Presidents

1. Mrs. J. G. Rice
2. Mrs. T. A. Groce
3. Mrs. T. C. Roberson
4. Mrs. T. A. Groce

W. S. C. S.
1940

Presidents

1. Mrs. T. A. Groce
2. Mrs. J. G. Rice
3. Mrs. B. H. Cole
4. Mrs. J. G. Rice
5. Mrs. C. D. Mallonee
5. Mrs. C. D. Mallonee
6. Mrs. C. B. Roberson
- Interim Period²
7. Mrs. T. C. Luther
8. Mrs. C. L. Byrd

W. S. G.

1. Mrs. Glen Leatherwood, Sr.
2. Mrs. Grace Scroggs
3. Mrs. W. W. Candler
4. Mrs. Tom Mallonee
- Interim Period²
5. Miss Helen Courtney
6. Miss Margaret Mallonee
7. Mrs. Olfa Crowder
8. Mrs. Robert Jones

1. The officers of the Ladies' Aid were elected semi-annually.
2. The fiscal year of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild was changed from January 1 to June 1 in 1948. Mrs. C. B. Roberson, President of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, and Mrs. Tom Mallonee, President of the Wesleyan Service Guild, served during the Interim Period, January 1 to June 1, 1948.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

THE OFFICIAL BOARD

STEWARDS

Earl Thrash	Harry W. Trull	Ebb Williams, Jr.
Bill Hall	Mrs. Grace Scroggs	Virgil Setzer
Olfa Crowder	Mrs. John Courtney	John Littrell
Vincent Maclary	Wollner Gaston	Arnold Wilson
E. E. Roberts	J. C. Rich	Perry Mallonee
Mrs. Raymond Brown	Harry Gudger	Austin Cole
Landry Thrash	Fred Plott	Mrs. Roy Clarke
Troy A. Hipps	Mrs. Tom Luther	Jack Russell
Richard Gudger		Mrs. Glenn Davis

HONORARY STEWARDS

J. G. Rice	Max D. Miller	C. D. Mallonee
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TRUSTEES

McKee Morgan	Glenn Leatherwood, Sr.	Robert Jones
M. G. Thompson	Fred Howell	George Summey
	T. C. Roberson	

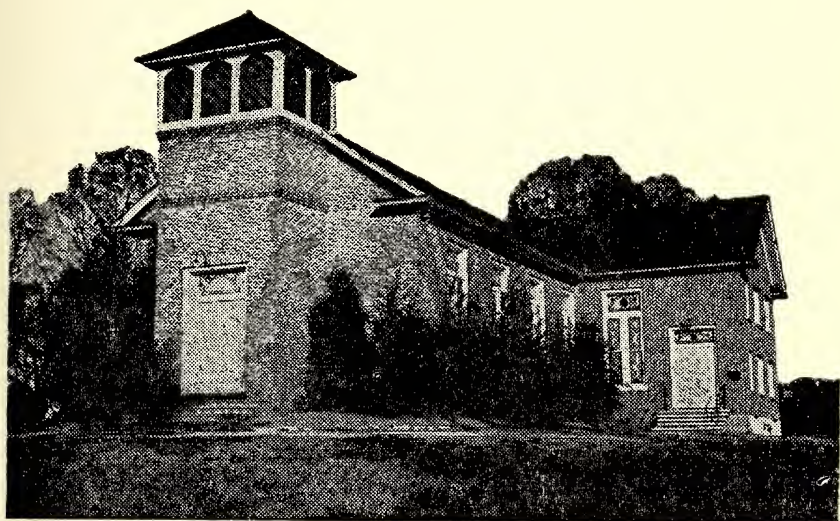
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Bill Hall.....	Chairman, Official Board
Mrs. Raymond Brown.....	Secretary, Official Board
Gudger Cabe.....	Treasurer
Charles M. Rice.....	Charge Lay Leader
Trop A. Hipps.....	Church School Superintendent
Mrs. T. C. Roberson.....	Chairman, Commission on Membership and Evangelism
Mrs. Geter Robinson.....	Chairman, Commission on Education
Mrs. Fred Howell.....	Chairman, Commission on Missions
Mrs. Troy Hipps.....	Chairman, Commission on Finance
Mrs. C. L. Byrd.....	President, Woman's Society of Christian Service
Herbert Roberson, Jr.....	President, Young Adult Fellowship
Mayme Roberson.....	President, Youth Fellowship

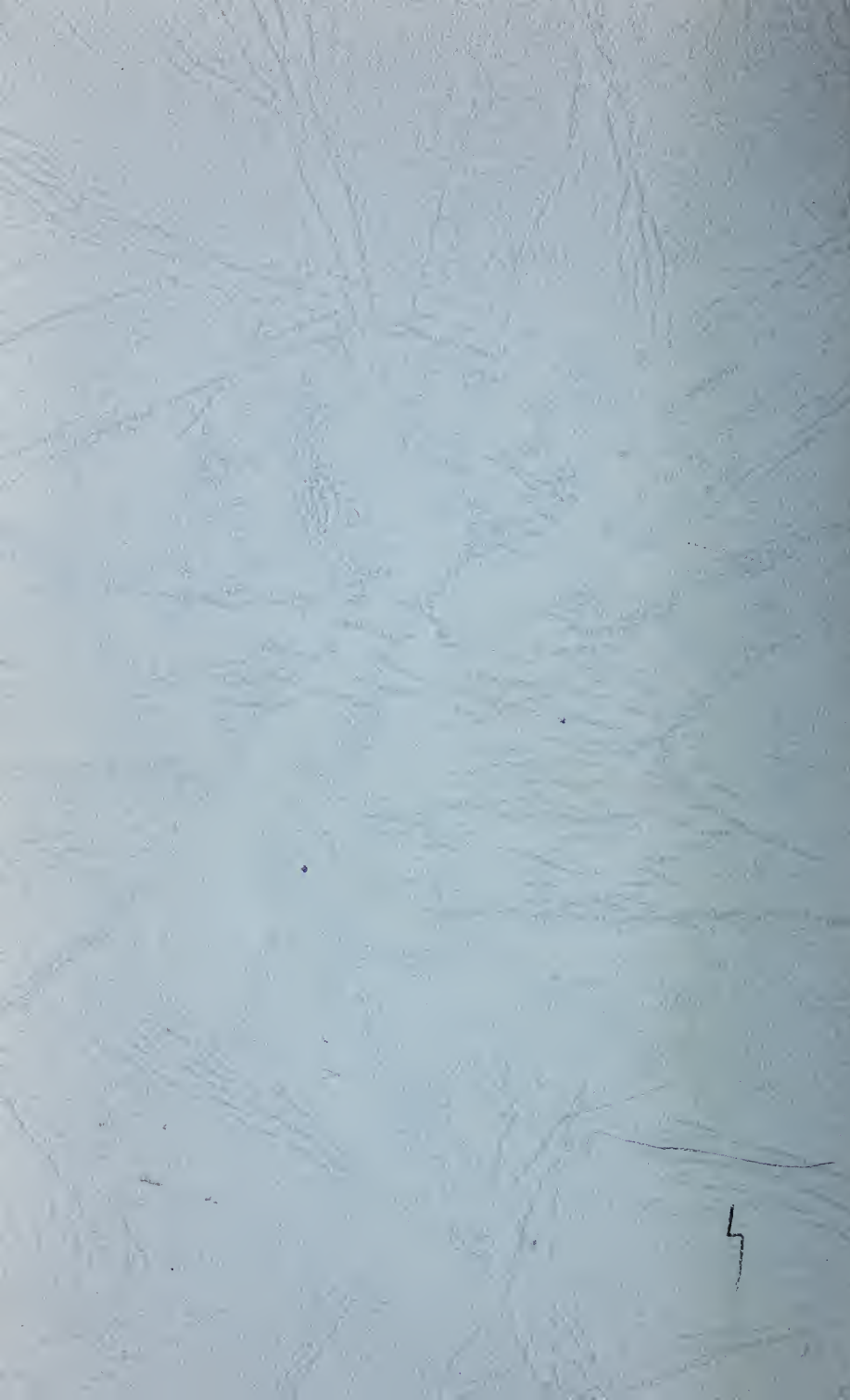
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OTHER CHURCH LEADERS

Mrs. Ellis Arrowood.....	Financial Secretary
J. B. Edwards.....	Superintendent of Membership Cultivation
Mrs. John Gilmore.....	Superintendent of Children's Division
Mrs. Charles Rice.....	Superintendent of Youth Division
Olfa Crowder.....	Superintendent of Adult Division
Mr. and Mrs. Geter Robinson.....	Counselors, Youth Fellowship
Mrs. Waugh, Mrs. Setzer, Mrs. Iarussi.....	Counselors, Junior Fellowship
C. B. Roberson.....	District Steward
Mrs. Landry Thrash.....	Recording Steward
Mrs. Frank Littrell, Mrs. Homer Morgan, Mrs. Jack Russell.....	Communion Stewards
Mrs. Robert Jones.....	President of Wesleyan Service Guild
Max D. Miller.....	Director of Golden Cross
Landry Thrash.....	Chief of Ushers
Mrs. J. C. Rich, Jr.....	Director of Music
Mrs. Olin Dillard, Mrs. Olfa Crowder, Mrs. Carl Thrash.....	Organists



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